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—(Colonist photos by Jim Ryan)

Withdrawal of Midnight Boat 'Like Losing Home' Says Crew

Captain H. W. Field of Vancouver was third officer on the first run of the Elizabeth. He'll make the last as master.

Chief Steward David Mitchell of West Vancouver, looks over menu for final run, with stewardess Mrs. Janey Wright, Victoria..

Radio operator Wallace A. Peirce of Victoria, also was on first run. In 29 years' service with this ship he's never missed a day.

Purser F. A. Campbell of Victoria, will go on retirement after 39 years' BCCS service at almost same time as Princess Elizabeth.

Quartermaster Klas G. Odgren will ring the final "stop" signal on the command of Capt. Field. He is waiting news of next ship.

Third engineer Jack Mumford of New Westminster, at telegraph where "finished with engines" ring will end midnight boat run.

City Wants Only TCA

Victoria's arguments against Pacific Western Airlines taking over the Patricia Bay service from Trans-Canada Air Lines apply equally to B.C. Air Lines, Acting-Mayor Arthur Dowell said yesterday.

Conway Parrott, president of the Victoria Chamber of Commerce, was also firm in stating that neither PWA nor BCA service was wanted—only TCA.

B.C. Air Lines announced yesterday it would apply to the Air Transport Board to take over the Victoria-Vancouver-Seattle routes if they were relinquished by TCA, and company president Maurice McGregor said he thought the application should be given preference over PWA's.

He said the company, now operating a fleet of 22 aircraft on coastal charter and non-scheduled operations between Vancouver and Prince Rupert, would use aircraft similar to TCA's DC-3s on the Patricia Bay service.

Acting Mayor Dowell said the city would be "absolutely" as much opposed to TCA giving up the service and B.C. Air Lines taking over as to TCA giving up the service and PWA taking over—"the arguments are the same, definitely."

Neighbor Warns Family

Neighbors yesterday warned a mother and her four children that their rented Saanich home was on fire.

The father, Frank J. Patrick, 727 Roderick, was still at work when the fire started about 4.30 p.m.

Mrs. Margaret Patrick and her children, Kenneth, 7, Janice, 5, Leslie, 3 and Susan, 1½, were watching television when the mother heard someone outside "yelling 'fire'."

She ran through the house, found the back porch on fire, raced back and herded the children outside.

Firemen estimated damage to the house at $250. No personal possessions were lost in the fire, cause of which was not known.

Blaze Big Surprise!

Most of the 150 elderly patients at Mount St. Mary, 999 Burdett, didn't know there was a fire in the building until several city fire trucks came to a screaming halt in front of the hospital about 9 last night.

Heat from the blaze — a smouldering rubbish heap clogged in a fireproof garbage chute—set off an automatic sprinkler system inside the narrow chute, and the fire was almost out by the time firemen arrived.

Firemen believed the fire was caused by a burning cigaret tossed into the chute.

ERNIE EDWARDS

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Seen In Passing

Ernie Edwards trimming holly bushes at the Empress Hotel. (A gardener for five years, he has worked for the CPR for 25 years. He and his wife **Rose** live at 3875 Rowland. Ernie is a director of the Victoria Gladiolus Society and president of the Canadian Quadrille Club, a square dance group) . . . **A. M. Porter,** who came to Victoria in 1897 from England, celebrating his 83rd birthday at his home at 927 Ellery . . . **Tom Lumsden** looking back on 40 years of business on Yates Street . . . **Don Mark** talking about Oak Bay Board of Trade . . . **Bob Ferguson** walking along Fort Street . . . **Lew Rees** issuing car licence plates . . . **Muriel Campbell** giving some travel information . . . **Peter Wainwright** chatting with **Bill Norris** . . . **Dick Creech** crossing Government Street.

Strike Curbs Backed

Victoria Chamber of Commerce directors yesterday gave their support to the B.C. government in any attempt during the present sitting of the legislature to make changes in labor legislation.

A resolution passed unanimously stated it was evident the existing Labor Act was not functioning on a satisfactory basis.

TERRIFIC LOSS

"It can be understood that any government might be reluctant to take steps that would in any way disturb friendly relations between the workman and industry as well as government. However, any sansible thinking individual undoubtedly realizes the terrific financial loss to industry and union membership through strikes."

Director Fred W. Hawes, who introduced the resolution, said the government was entitled to have an expression on the Labor Act from business.

"We recognize the usefulness of unions, for without them we would be worse than we are," said Mr. Hawes, "but as it is they are all powerful and their leaders are afraid of any loss of privilege."

DEMOCRATIC CONDUCT

George Wheaton, another director, said that all that industry was asking of the unions was an acceptance of responsibility and more democratic conduct of its affairs.

"We are not out to smash unions," he said. "We endorse the principle of collective bargaining, but we also endorse the principle of the right to work."

DAN DOYLE

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Whistle to Mark End of an Era

At midnight Tuesday three sharp blasts of a ship's whistle in the Inner Harbor will mark the end of an era.

The scene will be repeated at Vancouver as the Princess Elizabeth and Princess Joan simultaneously set out on the final night boat run.

To hundreds of thousands of people over the past 29 years, depending on age and circumstance, the midnight boats have been an institution, an adventure, a rock-a-bye night's sleep, a setting for romance or an excuse for a party.

They will miss it.

But what of the men and women who run the ships? The Colonist sent a reporter-photographer team aboard the Elizabeth yesterday to find out.

"It's like losing my second home," said radio operator Wallace A. Peirce, 615 Cook. He's been 29 years on the same ship out of a total of 45 years with Canadian Pacific Steamships. Before coming to the company's coastal fleet, he served aboard the famed "white empress" ships.

"The old night boat will be missed," he says. "It's certainly been like a home to me. You know, that in the old days I used to get blisters on my ears from wearing headphones." He waved a hand at the modern equipment around him. "But that's all gone now . . ."

Mr. Peirce was aboard the Elizabeth on the first night run 29 years ago this spring. He's proud of the fact that he never missed a day's work in that time, and he'll be there on Wednesday.

"This has always been a very happy ship," said Stewardess Mrs. Janey Wright, 826 Esquimalt. "For the past 16 year's I've practically lived aboard and it's been wonderful. It'll be a sad day when she's taken off for good."

Other crew members had kind words for the Elizabeth. Most are waiting to learn whether they are to be laid off work or transferred to other ships in the fleet. Down in the engine room, in the midst of heat and the smell of oil, an engineer called out: "So you've come to see the dying swan . . ."

Just before sailing time, Captain H. W. Field stepped briskly onto the bridge. He was third officer aboard the Elizabeth on her first run to Victoria. Hand on the whistle cord, the captain mulled over his feelings on withdrawal of the ships from service after 29 years.

"It's a sign of the times, I guess," he said. The whistle gave a sharp blast and right on 3.30 the screws of the Elizabeth began to churn up the quiet waters of the Inner Harbor.

Rough but It's Cheap

Tired Building Home for 13

By TED SHACKLEFORD

The Blanshard cabins, an old, dilapidated two-storey frame building within sight of the Empress Hotel, is home to 13 of Greater Victoria's pensioners.

The building contains 24 pokey little rooms about 10 feet square, but 11 of them are padlocked. As they became vacant they were locked to prevent anyone "squatting" in them.

When all the rooms are padlocked the building will likely be torn down.

Rooms in the building are the worst I have seen . . . but they are a godsend to the pensioners at $10 a month. It means that they can at least spend a few more dollars for food.

The Blanshard cabins have been home to 86-year-old Dan Doyle for about 40 years, off and on. He first rented one of the rooms in 1912, before the Power Commission bought the property. After about 15 years he left Victoria and returned to the cabins about 25 years ago.

LEFT WITH $65

Dan gets both the federal pension of $65 a month and the British Columbia government's bonus of $20 a month. When he's paid his rent he is left with $65 clear.

Dan's room is cleaner and more tidy than others in the building.

The main item of furniture, and the most prominent, is a small wood stove standing in the centre of the room with the flue running across to the rear wall. It keeps the room warm and dry and cooks Dan's meals for him.

CHOPPING BLOCK

Opposite the door is a double bed. In the opposite corner to the door Dan has a small chopping block, a hatchet, paper box, tinder box and a coal box.

Under the window Dan has a small table. In the corner near the table he has nailed four wooden boxes on the wall to increase his shelf space. There he keeps his groceries and dishes.

There are two chairs in the room—an old arm chair with a piece of a tarpaulin covering the back and sacking for a cushion, and a kitchen chair.

In a glass-fronted cabinet by the door Dan keeps his reading matter — mainly neatly - stacked paperback Western novels, but including several technical handbooks.

Colonist reporter Ted Shackleford has been assigned to live on $55 for a month to discover how senior citizens on old-age assistance payments live and what their problems are.

He will be available in The Daily Colonist office—EV 3-4111 — between 4 and 5 p.m. each day.

Dan has no real troubles with finances—"We can live on it OK," he says. "It just about lasts out.

"With rent like they have outside—$28 to $30 a month—it would be tough."

Wood and coal for heating costs Dan about $5 every two months. He only eats two meals a day but could eat three if he wanted them.

LISTENS TO RADIO

Dan can't read too much—weak eyes—but he fills in time by walking about town sometimes, and chopping wood. And then again, he listens to the radio—he has two as a friend gave him one.

Dan's rent includes electric light. He has a bare 100-watt bulb hanging from the ceiling. A pad of paper is used to jam the door shut.

There is no hot water in the rooms, apart from what the tenants heat on their stoves, and there is only one cold water sink outside to serve the six rooms on Dan's side of the cabins.

There are two toilets at the back of the building.

Dan's room is far from luxurious, but it is cheap. And cheap housing is what most pensioners look for.

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Yesterday I used a trick told to me by a number of readers, and stayed in bed late. I ate a fairly heavy breakfast of cornflakes with reconstituted milk, four slices of toast with margarine and marmalade and three cups of coffee, and did without lunch.

For dinner I had one and a half bowls of soup, finishing that off, just over half a pound of cod with fried potatoes and half a small can of mixed vegetables and coffee.

Anti-Labor Speakers Hit

'Tongues Race, Brain Neutral'

By ALEC MERRIMAN

Any attempts, sincere or otherwise, to cause splits among management and labor groups "comes close to treason," Donald Smith, Social Credit MLA for Victoria, said in the legislature yesterday.

"I want to dissociate myself from those 'who in attacking either management or labor, speak with their tongue in high gear and their brain in neutral," he said.

He was obviously referring to anti-labor remarks made in the House by both Public Works Minister W. N. Chant and Highways Minister P. A. Gaglardi.

Mr. Smith made a speech in which he staunchly defended labor and which was warmly applauded by CCF members. At times it looked as if Mr. Smith might be planning to cross the floor of the House, but later he said "I represent the people" and in his speech he pointed out the majority of trade unionists must be Social Crediters.

"If unions in B.C. are in fact bootlegging in place of bargaining . . . if unions in B.C. are racketeering in place of resolving their problems . . . then these attacks are not on the unions, but on the minister of labor and his administrators, not excluding the attorney-general's department," Mr. Smith argued.

"The minister has only to say the word and a particular union is non-existent by decertifying it," he pointed out.

"If racketeering and bootlegging is going on, which I do not believe is the case, the minister of labor is at fault as well as his administrators, and I say this . . . we have at the present time the best minister of labor and the best administrators B.C. has ever had."

"I would suggest that all of us in this legislature would be doing our duty if, instead of individually continually sniping at industrialists or recklessly smearing labor, we came down out of the clouds and spent our time in statesmanlike recognition that both are here to stay," he said.

"We need both and that which is good for labor and management is good for this province. As one prospers so does the other. A consumer without purchasing power makes a mighty poor customer and an industry which must close its plants makes a mighty poor employer."

Advice to Young Couples

'Don't Be in a Hurry'

"Don't be in too big a hurry to own things. Take your time, and get them only as you're able to buy them."

This is the advice offered young couples — especially very young couples — by a young husband who knows the price of too much haste.

He is Marvin Leroy Raymus, who came from the Calgary district, and who yesterday was sentenced in city police court to 18 months definite and nine months indeterminate in the Young Offenders' Unit at Oakalla.

The sentence actually was a multiple one—the same on each of eight charges of false pretences in which goods were obtained by worthless cheques. All were made concurrent by Magistrate William Ostler.

Three of the charges were in Victoria: one involving $214.05; one $400; one $130; three in North Vancouver: one for $210; one $514; one under $50; one in Saanich for about $22, and one in West Vancouver for $480.

In all cases, Raymus was charged under the name of John W. Willison. This, he told the Colonist yesterday, was one of his aliases.

In the three Victoria cases he was charged jointly with his wife, Frances Jean Raymus. She was sentenced to nine months' imprisonment.

Willing to help others avoid the same pitfall, Raymus told something of his story to the Colonist.

Both Raymus and his wife, but especially Raymus, came from homes where they had not enjoyed happy childhoods. In his case, he only went to Grade 9 in school.

The two were married 18 months ago, and tried to make a go of it together.

"Lack of an education forced me into laboring work, and my back would give out. Between times, bills would mount up, and first thing I knew I'd have to quit because of my back, or my pay would be garnisheed and the boss would fire me."

The rest of his story is one of vain attempts by the young couple—he is still only 19, his wife 18—to put down roots.

All the things they acquired —TV, record players, and the rest—they hoped to keep somehow and pay for.

For about a year they roamed.

Victoria, he said, was the end of the road. The offences were committed here Jan. 10; those in North and West Vancouver on Jan. 24.

That, they decided, was the end. Returning to Victoria, they destroyed the cheque books and means of identification they'd been using, and "just waited."

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Buy When You're Able Or Jail May Follow

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From One Who Knows

A raid by Saanich and Victoria detectives ended their waiting, and goods worth about $2,000 have been recovered.

Magistrate Ostler told the young couple, as they stood together, holding hands, in the prisoner's box yesterday:

"Yours is quite an amazing story."

The magistrate noted that they were married at a very early age, drawn together, no doubt, by need for companionship and their unhappy childhood years.

"You each needed someone to belong to," said the magistrate. "This would explain to some extent your conduct.

"Punishment is certainly called for, but in this case perhaps the need for rehabilitation comes ahead of punishment."

Magistrate Ostler, saying "I think and hope there is a genuine affection between you," urged both to take advantage of the guidance and vocational training that would be available during their imprisonment.